

offer coverage. Over the next few years, an additional 19 percent of American small businesses may be forced to eliminate their coverage as well. But there is a better way.

From a government standpoint, we are currently spending 4 percent of the GDP on Medicare and Medicaid. By 2040, that number could reach 15 percent. This level of government spending would be unsustainable. There is a better way.

Meaningful reform could cut costs for families, save small businesses, and even help pay down the budget deficit.

Some still say the cost of reform is too high. But the choice is clear: We can invest in the right reform now, ensuring quality health care in the future and sustained cost reductions in the long term, or we can do nothing and watch as the cost of health care steadily increases until it drives our families—and our country—to financial ruin.

My colleagues and I have real solutions. We can ensure that every single American has access to quality, affordable health care. We can save money on administrative costs and put an end to coverage denials due to preexisting conditions. With a shift in our focus from what we refer to as “sick care” and toward preventive medicine, we can keep people healthier, bolster our economy, and we can save money. This is the better way.

I urge my colleagues to leave partisanship at the door and do what is right for the American people. We cannot afford to do any less.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BEGICH.) Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I also understand we are in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 1390

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that on Monday, July 13, after the pledge, prayer, and any leader remarks, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 89, S. 1390, the Department of Defense Authorization bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that morning business be closed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010—Continued

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I appreciate everyone's cooperation. As I have said on a number of occasions, it may not appear that a lot of work is being done, but we have committee action taking place, we have had a lot of work on health care today, and we have had energy meetings today involving six committee chairs.

We are trying to figure out how we can proceed in the next week. I appreciate everyone's patience.

What is the pending business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. H.R. 2892.

Mr. REID. Is that the Homeland Security appropriations bill?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the Byrd substitute amendment No. 1373 to H.R. 2892, the Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010.

Harry Reid, Patty Murray, Jon Tester, Daniel K. Inouye, Kay R. Hagan, Tom Harkin, Bill Nelson, Mark R. Warner, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mark Begich, Frank R. Lautenberg, Ron Wyden, Barbara A. Mikulski, Barbara Boxer, Patrick J. Leahy, John D. Rockefeller, IV, Jack Reed.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on H.R. 2892, the Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010.

Harry Reid, Barbara Boxer, Mark Udall, Jack Reed, Jon Tester, Jeanne Shaheen, Al Franken, Evan Bayh, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Carl Levin, Byron L. Dorgan, Daniel K. Inouye, Blanche L. Lincoln, Joseph I. Lieberman, Ron Wyden, Mary L. Landrieu.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum with respect to those cloture motions be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that on Thursday, July 9, when the Senate resumes consideration of H.R. 2892, there be 10 minutes of debate prior to a vote in relation to the Kyl amendment No. 1432, with the time equally divided and controlled between

Senators TESTER and KYL or their designees; that no amendment be in order to the amendment prior to a vote in relation thereto; that upon the use or yielding back of the time, the Senate proceed to vote in relation to amendment No. 1432.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Delaware.

CLASHES IN CHINA

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, this week, bloody clashes have erupted between the minority Uighur community and the majority Han ethnic group in the Xinjiang region of western China. Reports indicate that the Chinese Government has responded with a heavy hand—deploying police and paramilitary troops, establishing a curfew, closing mosques, cutting off Internet and mobile phone access, and rounding up and arresting innocent civilians.

The state-controlled media reported that at least 156 Chinese citizens have been killed, more than 1,000 have been injured, and approximately 1,400 have been arrested since the clashes began earlier this week.

I am deeply concerned about ongoing tension in Xinjiang and believe the senseless loss of life, suppression of press freedom, and violations of basic human rights is unconscionable in China, and anywhere else in the world.

Today, I call on all parties to demonstrate restraint, end the violence, cease persecution of minorities, and protect fundamental human rights. I also call on the Chinese Government to open Internet and mobile phone access, end jamming of international broadcasting, and lift the grave and growing restrictions on the press.

We all know independent journalists have been censored for decades in China—a fact that is painfully evident as we try to understand how recent demonstrations metastasized into violence in western China.

According to the State Department Report on Human Rights for 2009, the Chinese Government has increased cultural and religious repression of ethnic minorities, including on the Muslim Uighurs. It appears that as ethnic tensions rose, members of the Uighur community took to the streets, resulting in an aggressive crackdown by the Chinese security forces on Sunday.

The exact circumstances by which violence transpired remains unclear, largely because the government censors information including the official number of casualties.

In what can only be described as questionable, these numbers have remained stagnant in the past two days